

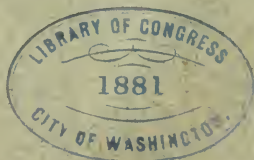
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HISTORY OF THE
TOWN OF SAVOY.

PUBLISHED BY H. E. MILLER.

WEST CUMMINGTON, MASS.





HISTORY

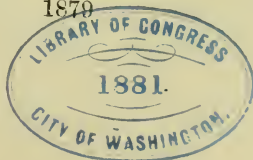
OF THE

TOWN OF SAVOY.

BY H. E. MILLER

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WEST CUMMINGTON, MASS.

1879



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PREFACE.

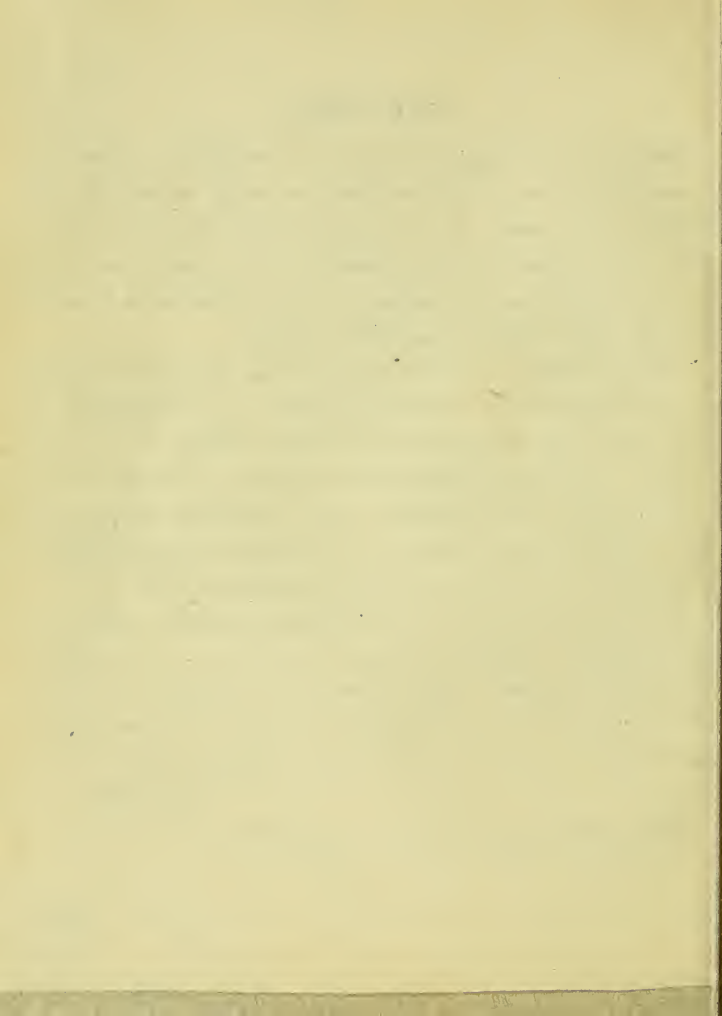
Our object in issuing this book, is to collect in a form for preservation the several incidents most prominent in the history of the town, from its settlement to the present time. We do not claim that it is complete, as we have been compelled to condense the matter, in order to furnish a book at a price so low that all can afford a copy.

We have also been unable to give the necessary time to a thorough search for material: indeed, it is impossible to give a full account of several incidents relating to its early history: yet, enough has been collected to give the reader a fair view of the events that have occurred during the century that has passed since our ancestors commenced their struggle for subsistence among these rugged hills.

In collecting the dates and other matter for this work, we have received valuable assistance from Hon. J. N. Dunham, of Pittsfield, Mass. Philo Carpenter, of Chicago, Ill. Rev. A. Deming, L. McCulloch Esq. and others, of Savoy, Mass. and their kindness will ever be remembered by the

AUTHOR.

West Cummington, Mass. July 1879.



History of Savoy.

At the time of the settlement of Adams, and the towns along the river, all the territory from Cheshire, Mass. to the Vermont line, was called East Hoosac, and the unsettled tract, now called SAVOY, was included in this region. From the time of its settlement until its incorporation, it was called by the settlers New Seconk, and was known to the General Court as "Bullock's Grant," being a portion of the tract of land consisting of six square miles, granted by the General Court, to Col. Wm. Bullock of Rehoboth, as Agent for the heirs of Capt. Samuel Gallup and his company of men, in consideration of services rendered by them during the French and Indian war. This grant was made April 25th, 1771.

Previous to this grant, this tract formed No. 6, of the ten townships, sold at auction by the General Court, at Boston, June 2nd 1762. and was purchased by Abel Lawrence, at £1350 sterling. He was afterwards released

from his bargain because the land was not so good as represented. In the grant to Col. Bullock, it was stipulated that three rights, of 380 acres each, should be reserved for the following uses, viz.: one as a donation for the first settled minister, one for the ministry forever, and one for the use of schools; thus securing religious and educational advantages before any settlement was made.

The first settlement in town was made in 1777 by a man named Robinett, who located near where the Coal-kilns now stand. How long he remained, or what became of him we are unable to learn. Capt. Lemuel Hathaway, of Taunton, came into the south part of this town during the same year. Mr. Hathaway was an able man, and his descendants are people of good character. His great grandson, Rev. C. L. Waite, is now pastor of the Universalist Church at Orange, Mass.

About this time other families commenced clearing lands in the north part of the town, one on the "Dunham" lot. (now occupied by James Kelly,) in School District No. 4, another, a Mr. Bishop, located on land now owned by

Leonard McCulloch, in the part of the town called "New State." another on the "Goff" place, and another on the hill north of the Hollow. These men, when clearing land, often "exchanged work" all laboring together, for a given time, at each place.

In those days there were no roads, and some of the men being obliged to go to Adams and work, to earn provisions for their families, brought the meal, and other commodities upon their shoulders. Some who had trades, would go to Troy and other places for work, leaving their courageous wives to superintend affairs at home. In several instances, these plucky women remained for a number of weeks literally alone in a wilderness, surrounded by wolves, bears, and other animals. There is a tradition that one lady staid many nights with nothing but blankets to keep the wolves from her window. Many of the settlers passed their first night under an upturned hogshhead, to protect themselves from wild beasts. All the houses were built of logs, and people who kept sheep or swine, made pens for them beneath some window, that they might be easily reached in

time of danger. One man, returning from Adams in the evening, was followed for some distance, by a bear walking upon its hind feet, ready to give an unwelcome hug, but the resolute pioneer, turning about, commenced a lecture which so disconcerted Bruin, that he left in disgust.

For several years after the first settlement, the colonies were engaged in the struggle for independence, and during this period the settlement of this town was much retarded: yet, at the close of the war 35 families had homes in "Bullock's Grant." We here give the names of these families, followed by brief sketches of their subsequent history. Lemuel Hathaway, Daniel Wetherel, Wm. Wilbur Joseph Williams, Joseph Williams, Jun., Wm. and Thos. Williams, Loved Eddy, and Zechariah Paddleford, from Taunton; John Bourn, Joseph Bishop, Comfort Bates, Abial Dunham, Michael Sweet, and David Matthews, from Attleborough; Simeon Hodges, and Snellem Babbitt, from Norton; Peleg Hathaway, Nathan Sherman, and Mr. Reed from Middleborough; Peter Bennet, and Eliezur Edson of Pelham; Joshua Felt from Easton; James Nelson from

Brimfield; William Ingraham from Rehoboth; Nathan Haskins from Shutesbury; Samuel Rogers and Wm. Tolman from Sharon; Wm. Bowen from Warren, R. I.; Samuel Read, Shubael Fuller, Azariah Heath, Joseph Putney, a man by name of Murphy, and another by the name of Hamlin, from some part of Connecticut.

The families of the two Hathaways remained in town, and many of their descendants still reside here.

Wm. Williams kept the first Hotel, or "Tavern," in the town, obtaining his license in 1794. The Williams families kept Hotel, and were residents of the town for many years.

The Eddy and Paddleford families were also represented in town, for the greater portion of time since its settlement. The Paddlefords lived for some time in what is now called the "Brier."

Mr. Bishop did not remain long in the place, becoming discontented he removed to Adams.

The descendants of Mr. Bourn still reside in town, John Bourn was born in 1783, being the first male child born in Savoy. Caleb Bourne, of this family, was for many years

a teacher and a prominent man in the town. Other members of this family are mentioned in another part of this book.

Simeon Hodges came here in 1777 (we believe,) and the Hodges of North Adams, are members of the family, none living in Savoy at the present time.

Snellem Babbitt, who came to Savoy in 1787, was a man of good education coupled with energy. He became a leader in public matters, receiving almost every office at the hand of his fellow townsmen. He died in 1854, in his 94th year. Mr. Babbitt's descendants have all been characterized by a spirit of energy and enterprise. His son, Edward remained in town, and was prominent in all town affairs: indeed, it is related, so great was his influence, that at town meeting many voters waited until "Ned Babbitt" had voted, before acting on important questions. A. J. Babbitt (a son of Edward), has also taken an active part in public and political matters, and was for many years manufacturer of the famous "Babbitt" Ax. He now resides in Springfield, Mass. Others will receive notice under head of Physicians, Etc.

The Shermans located in the New State, and the different branches of the family have constituted a majority of the inhabitants in this section, at any time, during the last seventy five years. Among these were Abial, Jacob, Joseph and Seth. Jacob died in 1873 at an advanced age. The only Shermans, now living in Savoy, are members of his family.

Nathan Haskins was an early settler, and was the first settled minister in town; as such receiving the right of 380 acres reserved as a donation for the first minister. His descendants formed a large portion of the population in the district known as "Spruce Corner."

Mr. Dunham settled in the north part of the town, and from him are descended the Dunhams mentioned hereafter in these pages.

We are unable to give an account of the remaining families, and have not learned how long they remained in the town. Others came soon after the close of the Revolutionary war. A large part of "Bullock's Grant," together with other small tracts of land, was incorporated, with all the

inhabitants thereon, as a town, Feb. 20, 1797, with its present name, given (undoubtedly) because of its resemblance to the mountainous country of Savoy in Europe.

In the act of incorporation its boundaries are given as follows: East line, from south west corner of Hawley 2060 rods to Cold river; North line, 1245 rods on the channel of said river, then 780 rods to Adams line; West line, 1060 rods south, then 80 deg. west, 240 rods to Cheshire line, thence east 446 rods to stake and stones, thence south 330 to Windsor line; South line, 1723 rods to first mentioned corner of Hawley.

The town is situated on the Hoosac range of the Green Mountains, 110 miles west of Boston.

SKETCHES OF FAMILIES, &c.

Some of the older families in the south part of the town, are Ingrahams, Bowkers, Bateses, Blisses, and Sturtevant's. Wm. Ingraham was one of the original settlers, and an influential citizen. Obadiah Ingraham (son of Wm.) was for many years owner of a grist mill at the Hollow, was also a

Deacon in the church. His son, David Ingraham, is now Town Clerk in Savoy. The Bowkers were well educated, all of them attaining to honorable positions in society. The only male survivor of the Bliss family, now living in the south part of the town, is Wm. Bliss, a cabinet maker. William's son, Duane, is extensively engaged in the lumber business in Nevada. Of the Bates family, S. W. Bates, alone, resides in town. The Sturtevant's came to Savoy in 1811, since which time, they have been an influential family. Simeon Goff was the first of this name in the place. The only village is in this part, on a branch of the Westfield river. It has generally supported two stores, two churches, and for some time two Hotels, kept by the Hathaways, Bowkers, Hall's and others. In 1849 there was a flourishing lodge of the I. O. O. F., called Green Mountain Tent. In 1850 the "Hollow" was one of the most prosperous of the hill villages in Berkshire County. Since that time, like other hill towns, its prosperity has declined: however, a spirit of enterprise still exists, indicated by improvements of late.

In the south eastern part of the town, the older families were those of Benjamin Carpenter, who settled where Mr. Elbridge Ingraham now lives, and was the ancestor of the Carpenters residing in this section; of Mr. Mirick, from New Bedford. Allen and Noah Mirick, his sons, still reside in the place: of the Remingtons; and of Capt. John Deming, who came from Wethersfield, Ct., in 1811. Mr. Deming had several children, one of them, Rev. Amos Deming, is yet living here. The "Elder" is in his 88th year, was for many years pastor of the Baptist Church in this place, has baptized over 200 persons, and officiated at 142 weddings. He now lives with his sons, Mark and Amos, enterprising farmers, and manufacturers of Boxes.

In the part now called Savoy Centre, lived Mr Consider Hathaway and his family; the Millers: Samuel, Barnard, Nathan and Wm.. they were naturally a strong and hardy people. Wm. Miller built and for a time kept a Hotel on the corner, now owned by Wms. Sherman. There are now four families of this name in Savoy: The Carters, were

business men, in their day, but none are living here at the present time. The Wm. Carter place is now owned by Lorenzo Shaw, of Cummington, who built here a steam saw-mill, and for a short time, carried on an extensive lumber business.

In the New State were the Shermans, (already mentioned), the Fish families, who owned an edge tool shop near Cold river, north east of W. W. Burnett's residence, the Bliss, Roberts, Simmons, and Bridges families. Bradish Dunham, who lived where Horace Ford now does, was one of the foremost men in the town, taking part in all public affairs. Abel Carpenter came to Berkshire County, in 1787. Abel's son, Philo Carpenter, was born in Savoy, Feb. 27th 1805. When about 23 years of age he went to Troy, N. Y. and afterwards to Chicago, Ill., buying land in that place when it was but a village of log houses. He established the first Sabbath School, and delivered the first temperance lecture in Chicago. He has become wealthy, and has lived to see the city he helped to build, one of the most

prosperous cities in the Union. Mr. Carpenter has given over \$100,000, for religious and educational purposes. His brother, the late Abel Carpenter, was also a resident of the same city. We might also mention other families of this section, among them, the Clains, of whom Dea. James Cain is the oldest living representative; Daniel Estes, a former sea captain, whose adventures would make an interesting volume; and of Wm. Perkins, the father of Rev. Orrin Perkins, a Universalist preacher, and grandfather of Rev. O. P. Gifford, the eminent Baptist preacher, of Boston. The Tylers have left the town, their farm is now owned by Dennis Haskins, who has near here a stove manufactory, furnishing employment to a number of persons.

In the "Brier" were the Dunhams, Daniel, and his sons Alvin, and Orrin who still lives in the place; the Pollys, of whom Asa is the oldest now living here; the Snows, Simon, Russel and Harmon, all intelligent and respected citizens; Rev. Nathaniel McCulloch was a resident of this section from about 1830 until his death in 1867. He had a

large family: though only three of his children remain in the town. Four of his sons are preachers, in the western states; the families of Augustus Maynard, and the late Ephraim Walker, have lived here for many years: the Joslyns, Rings, and Carpenters, former residen'ts, have nearly disappeared. In 1841, Russel Snow, Ezra Stearns, and J. B. Cudworth built a tannery, near where E. J. Crandall's saw-mill now stands, which was afterwards owned by Mr. Alvin Cudworth, and finally by Timothy Baker who carried on the business until 1860. when it was given up. Mr. Baker now lives in Adams. From 1866 to 1870 a large lumber mill was in operation here, owned by parties in other towns. The lumber business is now carried on by Asa and Harvey Polly, E. J. Crandall, and N. B. Baker

In the "Spruce Corner," and the eastern part of Savoy, the early settlers were Josiah Blanchard, Asil Horton, who came from Windsor in 1800; and E. Leonard, who came in 1806. The Leonards were from Raynham, and were descendants of the Leonards, owners of the house in which

the head of King Phillip (the famous Indian warrior) was exhibited, after he was slain in battle. Among the later residents were Nelson Wing ; Ethan Maynard ; Josiah Tilton, who came from Goshen, in 1817 ; and the Barton family. This is a pleasant region some of the buildings lately erected giving the place a neat appearance. A saw - mill is owned by J. W. Bourne, and Rev. H. K. Flagg, an Adventist preacher residing here a greater part of the time since 1863, has a printing office, established lately for the purpose of issuing tracts, &c.

The families of Mr. Phillips, (father of Dr. H. P. Phillips of North Adams), the Walkers, Leonards, and others lived on the road leading north from Savoy Hollow, over the hill known as " Fifty one," from the number of the original lot. Since the introduction of the modern system of building roads in the valleys, this road is little used, and the region nearly depopulated. The same may be said of the old road by Ezekiel Fuller's : yet, this is not an indication of decline, since better advantages are afforded in the valleys.

CHURCHES AND MINISTERS.

The people of this town have always taken a lively interest in all religious matters, and while a majority of the hill towns in New England have had but one church, (generally the Congregational) this one has nurtured almost every denomination: indeed, it has been the birthplace of one of the "isms" whose remarkable growth commands the attention of our whole nation.

The first church organization in Savoy, was that of the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,

organized, at the house of Wm. Williams. June 24, 1786. consisting of 10 members, viz: Nathan Haskins and wife, Wm. Williams and wife, Lucinda Wilbore, Nathan and Solomon Fay, Benjamin Bullen, Zechariah Paddleford, and Alice Reed. Nathan Haskins, the first minister, was ordained Jan. 28, 1789, and was pastor until his death on Dec. 10, 1802. After his death there was no settled pastor until 1810, when Phillip Pierce became pastor, remaining until 1817. Eld. Keyes next supplied the pulpit, in 1823

he was succeeded by David Woodbury, who gave place the following year, to Benjamin F. Remington. Since Mr. Remington, the church has had the following pastors: Elnathan Sweet, O. Martin, George Walker, Nathaniel McCullock, Roswell Whipple, Amos Deming, H. B. Foskett, J. Walker, A. H. Sweet, S. H. Amsden, C. L. Baker, Geo. F. Pay, David Pease, Ira Bonny, R. H. Maine, L. Tandy, and Geo. B. Fittz. The first Church edifice was built in 1804, on the corner near the S. W. Bates place. In 1848 it was removed to its present location in Savoy Hollow. This church reached its highest point of prosperity in 1850, and had then 103 members.

THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

was organized at New State, May 23, 1842, with 24 members. Rev. N. McCullock was their first pastor, Jas. Cain, deacon and clerk. Amos Deming was ordained as their pastor, May 27, 1834; and Edgar F. Cady Feb. 3, 1848. J. M. Whipple became pastor in 1849, after him Rev. A. Deming was called to his second pastorate. In 1849 this church

had 61 members. Soon after the church being able to support a preacher, disbanded and united with the first Baptist church. Their house of worship was built in 1842, and has since been repaired and neatly fitted up as a union church.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY

was formed Feb. 18, 1811, composed of 20 members living in Savoy and Windsor. Rev. Jephthah Poole was ordained pastor of this church Oct. 11, 1811. After his dismissal the pulpit was mainly supplied from missionary sources. Their church was erected on the line between the above named towns, near Mr. Hollis' residence. This church, at one time, had 56 members.

THE METHODIST SOCIETY

was organized in 1834, and built their church at Savoy Hollow in 1835. The names of the pastors of this church are as follows: A. C. Wheat, Samuel Palmer, Benjamin McLeoth, Thomas Marcy, J. B. Dean, John Cadwell, A. Baillie, A. G. Bowles, A. S. Flagg, R. Mitchell, D. Todd,

R. Gage, E. H. Chapin, C. N. Merrifield and E. B. Morgan. In 1854 they had 38 members. This church has not sustained regular meetings during the last twelve years, but several attempts have been made to revive them, with Rev. G. Hewes as pastor in 1870, Rev. A. Lawrence in 1878, and Rev. J. Wood in 1879.

ADVENTIST CHURCH.

When the doctrines promulgated by Wm. Miller, (a relative of the Savoy Millers), created so much attention in this country, they acquired a strong foothold in this town, and several church organizations have resulted therefrom. The preaching has been mainly by travelling ministers of the denomination: although several preachers of considerable talent have originated in this locality. One of these societies have held services in the Union Church, and were quite prosperous under the pastorates of Eld. E. McCulloch (now of Nevada O.), Eld. R. Starks, Mrs. E. A. Warren and others. 50 members. Another society built a chapel and still hold meetings at Spruce Corner. D. Sears, pastor.

MORMONISM, ETC.

About the year 1810, the veritable Joe. Smith, of Mormon notoriety, coming here from Vermont, commenced the formation of a church, or "community." Smith, being a man of considerable tact and wonderful psychological or mesmeric influence, succeeded in attracting many followers in the north part of the town, and taking a wife, he seemed likely to prosper: when lo! a former wife appeared, and the citizens being loth to accept this innovation, he made a sudden exit in search of "greener" fields. He afterwards gathered his "Church of the Latter-day Saints," at Palmyra, N. Y., taking care to avoid future "domestic troubles" by securing their sanction through inspired (?) revelation.

THE SHAKERS

of New Lebanon, N. Y., established here, in 1815, a community from the remnant of Smith's followers. They built a grist-mill, shop, a hall for worship, (now used as shed on H. Ford's place) and for a few years prospered, but the region was not adapted to their mode of living, and after five years of experiment, returned to New Lebanon, with several families from Savoy. Their doctrines were a curious mix-

ture of truth, witchcraft, and superstition. The excitement attending this revival was intense, and several persons became insane from its effects.

SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, ETC.

Provision was made for the support of schools by the reservation of one right for this purpose. At the first town-meeting, held at the house of Wm. Williams Apr. 24, 1797, the sum of \$80, was appropriated for schools. Of course this amount would not furnish superior advantages to the children of those days, but it sufficed to give our forefathers a decent common school education, and a better idea of civility than is acquired in some of our modern schools.

As time advanced, the amount raised for schools was increased, and in 1815 reached the sum of \$250. In 1829 the school fund accruing from the sale of school right (sold in 1821), and ministerial right (sold in 1826), was \$1071.96.

The school interests have always been well sustained, and the pupils generally as forward as those in other common schools. Among the teachers originating in Savoy are the following: Bradish Danham; Caleb Bourne; Warl B. Bates, an expert mathematician, now residing at Earlville, Ill.; F. C. Bourne; O. Perkins, late principal of the Institute at Cooperstown, N. Y.;

The following persons have represented the town in the Mass. Legislature; Snellm Babbitt, Wm. Ingraham, Ed. Fabbitt, J. B. Cudworth, Phillip Pierce, R. Sturtevant.

David Ingraham, Timothy Baker, Harmon Snow, Melvin Bowker, S. P. Dresser, Leonard McCullock.

JUSTICES.

Snellem Babbitt, Bradish Dunham, Harmon Snow, A. M. Bowker, L. McCullock, Geo. Dunham, S. P. Dresser, F. C. Bourne, N. E. Goff.

LAWYERS.

Savoy can not boast of the number of her sons in the legal profession, but what may be wanting in quantity is amply made up in quality. The only lawyers from Savoy are the sons of Bradish Dunham. JARVIS N. DUNHAM, of Pittsfield, is one of the leading lawyers in Western Mass. He has filled many offices of trust and is highly esteemed in political, as in social circles. HENRY J. DUNHAM, of Stockbridge, Mass. is also an eminent and respected lawyer. Mr. Dunham is the author of a recent publication entitled "The Game Laws of Massachusetts."

THE CLERGYMEN

from this place are, Revs. Amos Deming George Walker and John Haradon, Baptist; Rev. Spencer Tileston, Methodist; Revs. O. Perkins and N. D. Sherman, Universalist.

THE PHYSICIANS

originating in the town are: Snell Babbitt, Isaac Hodges, Joel Burnett, Isaac Brown, Simeon Snow, Amos Walker,

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Silas J. Bourne, Chas. and A. M. Bowker, and C. M. Barton, now practicing at Whately, Mass. The following are the physicians who have practiced in Savoy: Nathan Branch L. Phillips, Samuel Bullock, Isaac Hodges, Wm. A. Hamilton, A. Brown. Snell Babbitt, Warren C. Partridge, Phil-emon Stacy, Nathan Weston, Charles Bowker, A. M. Bowker, O. A. Wheeler, S. P. Dresser and M. A. Bowen.

POST OFFICES.

The SAVOY P.O., was established in 1817, on the Adams and Ashfield route, and has had as postmasters: D. Sturtevant, Russell Sherman, Liberty, Madison and Calvin Bowker. The SAVOY CENTRE P.O., was established in 1876, on the Adams and Charlemont route. J.W.Gurney, P.M.

WAR RECORD.

We can not look with pride upon our records of the Revolution: in fact, the only tradition concerning the matter has an unpatriotic savor. It is said that a young pioneer (we withhold his name) was engaged in clearing land when the call was made, for volunteers to defend the military stores, and striking his axe into a stump, he resolutely shouldered his musket and started for—his mother's home in Norton. The following were soldiers of the Revolution afterwards residing in Savoy:

Joseph Williams,
John Cain,

Snellem Babbitt,
Elijah Turner,

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